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ALBUQUERQUE.....NEW MEXICO

MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11, 1905.

A Friend in Need

WE HAVE before us a handsome little volume by Rev. E. Lyman Hood, entitled "The New West Education Commission," which will be of special interest to the future historian of New Mexico, because the institution of whose work it treats was a sort of John Baptist to American civilization in this corner of our country. Of course, there was a civilization here when the New West came, and probably just as good as that which it brought, but it was not ours, and it is very important to us, and to the perpetuity of our free institutions, that the civilization of our country should be homogeneous and American. The commission was a denominational affair—though that is nothing to its credit, and it would have been more useful had it planted itself simply upon the broad ground of education and good morals—though a touch of denominational bias was undoubtedly necessary to ensure the proper enthusiasm, since it seems to be almost impossible for the best of us to do much for God and humanity unless we can see a place somewhere along the line where our faction is going to get a rake off.

But we feel toward the New West as toward a dear old friend. We were acquainted with it during all the years of its life, and never failed to admire the grand good work it did, especially as circumstances enabled us to see and realize what a field it had before it, and what an immense opening there was here for educational work. It came here in 1880, and the United States census of that year held the picture of New Mexico up to the world with a black and hideous background of sixty-five per cent of illiteracy. That disgraceful record is now reduced to twenty-two per cent, showing that this territory has made greater educational progress during the last quarter century than any other political division of the United States. Every citizen of New Mexico has reason to be proud of that record, and the New West commission has a right to claim a liberal share of the credit of making it.

The following extract from the little volume under review, will be of interest to Albuquerque people:

"In the autumn of 1881 the school was moved to the new town, to an adobe building on Lead avenue, between Third and Fourth streets. Perkins Hall was first occupied at its dedication, December 20, 1880. It was erected on lots presented by citizens of the city, and counting the high basement, is three stories in height, upon a ground plan 55 by 85 feet, and cost the commission twenty-two thousand dollars. The total outlay represented an expenditure of twenty-five thousand dollars."

When the commission wound up its affairs in the territory, the fine building above referred to was purchased by Mr. Joshua S. Reynolds, president of the First National bank, and presented to the city as a home for the public library, and is now used for that purpose.

Should Post Themselves

HERE are two big papers in Missouri which persistently misrepresent the people of these southwestern territories on the statehood question. When a cross roads paper misrepresents existing conditions it can be excused on the ground of ignorance, but big, strong journals like the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, and the Kansas City Journal, can not excuse themselves on that plea. If they do not know the condition of public sentiment in this section they are abundantly able to inform themselves, and if they neglect to do so, and instead of giving the public the truth continue to repeat the stories of interested parties who desire to exploit the country for their own aggrandizement, they are guilty of doing gross injustice to the people of these territories.

The masses of both New Mexico and Arizona are in favor of statehood. Some would prefer one state, and others would prefer two states, but a very large majority will vote for either if congress will give them a chance. But the story so frequently repeated by the two great journals above named, to the effect that the people of both territories or either territory, are overwhelmingly opposed to joint statehood, is absolutely false, and the journals named are guilty of a great wrong to the public as well as to this people, by printing as a fact, that which is not a fact.

There is no active opposition to joint statehood in either New Mexico or Arizona, except that which comes from the pie eaters, who want to hold offices to which they know they could not be elected by the people, and the big mining and railroad corporations, which now go practically tax free, and know that in a state composed of the two territories they would have to pay like other persons. Take out these two classes, and the "tools" which they have bought and paid for, and there would be no opposition to joint statehood heard of in either territory. They are the parties who have the money and make the noise. But the "plain people" have the votes, and their position on the question will not be misunderstood when they have a chance to record their sentiments at the polls.

And since the bill before congress merely provides for submitting the matter to the people, why should the opponents of joint statehood be so desperately opposed to its passage, if, as they claim, all the people are against it? Doesn't the very fact of their desperation in fighting the measure show that they know they are not telling the truth when they say the people are all against it? They know that if the people of New Mexico and Arizona are given a chance to vote upon the adoption of a constitution for the joint state they will adopt it by a most positive majority. And that is why they are gathering in Washington, willing to move heaven and earth to defeat the passage of the bill.

AMUNDSEN has apparently demonstrated that there is such a thing as "the northwest passage," but, says the San Francisco Chronicle, his demonstration only confirms the opinion long entertained by practical men that its existence can prove of no real use to mankind, as it is to all intents and purposes un navigable.

MARK TWAIN'S speech at the banquet which marked his seventieth year was as witty as any of his earlier deliverances. Evidently Osier's theory does not apply to men built on his lines.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Editor Morning Journal: Would a clause in the enabling act prohibiting the sale of liquor be binding after the state was admitted. J. V. W.
 No. That would be a matter for the legislature of the new state.

THE first million dollars for the relief fund [for the Russian Jews] has been raised, and the appeal has gone out for the second. What can be done is little, but that little is to be done.—New York Globe.

IT'S too bad that the navy department can't have its big vessels of 15,000 tons displacement. But the war department still has Taft.—St. Louis Republic.

THE wonderful discipline of the Russian army is shown by the manner in which it mutinies as one man.—Los Angeles Examiner.

THE weather man seems disposed to give Santa Claus a chance this year.

Southwest Snap Shots

Rapidly Falling in Line.

The New Mexican is rapidly wheeling into line. It even declares itself pleased to learn that former Delegate Rodey is to spend the winter in Washington working for joint statehood.—Roswell Record.

Well, Rather.

An effect of President Roosevelt's statehood order will perhaps be to drive a few of the more numerous friends of Arizona to cover, and a few of the hitherto hidden friends of joint statehood into the open.—Phoenix Enterprise.

An Open Opportunity.

Delegate Andrews announces he will endeavor to visit New Mexico during the holiday recess at Washington. He should by all means, and fix up his pen and ink, and get up some of the gold ones and let the people see what a great man looks like again.—Alamogordo Advertiser.

A Nice Quiet Town.

From the liveliest open town in the territory to the quietest and most orderly is the history of Douglas. All gambling has ceased in that town. This was brought about by the raising of the gambling license to such a figure that the games could not make good. Other Arizona towns might find it advisable to follow the example of Douglas.—Flagstaff Sun.

The Sound Was Loud.

With all their efforts combined, the governor, the editors of the New Mexican and the Optic and a number of other leaders of the gang who visited Washington, it was impossible to convince President Roosevelt that Don Miguel was the right man for governor of New Mexico any longer. How quick are the mighty ones, and how quick good was the fall and the sound thereof.—Springer Stockman.

A Little McNary Error.

James Graham McNary, editor of the Las Vegas Optic, in a lengthy interview with William E. Curtis, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, on the joint statehood question says in one place that "the Methodist conference of Arizona and New Mexico, meeting in Silver City in November, did pass a memorial against joint statehood." Mr. McNary has been misinformed in regard to this matter. The conference of the New Mexico English Mission of the M. E. church which met in Silver City in October, did not even consider any such memorial during its sessions, let alone pass one, and officially the subject was not touched upon.—Silver City Enterprise.

All in the Same Boat.

Over in Arizona, just as in New Mexico, those who are personally interested in having these two territories remain as they are, rather than to be admitted as one state, are making the air black with their claims that "not ten per cent of the citizens of this territory are in favor of joint statehood, or would vote for the measure if they had an opportunity." The facts are, that over sixty per cent of the citizens of both territories are anxious for joint statehood, and we are gaining new recruits every day. The only trouble is that we are not making as much noise as the other fellows, we don't have to, we are sure of our side of the argument, while the other fellows are simply talking against time.—Deming Headlight.

The Keynote.

President Roosevelt sounded the keynote of the statehood matter in his message, when he stated in substance, that the matter had dragged along until it was time to settle it for all time. It is reasonably certain that there is a majority in both houses of congress in favor of creating one state out of the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and there is little doubt but a bill very similar to the Hamilton bill of the last congress will pass, and it has already been introduced. Congressmen recognize the fact that the most of the opposition to joint statehood comes from the politicians of cooperation in the two territories, and not from the people generally. In New Mexico the Non-Partisan Joint Statehood League has done effective work.—Gallop Republican.

The General Flop.

There are strong symptoms of a decided "flop" among the newspapers of New Mexico on the advisability of joint statehood since the president made it so unmistakable in his message that it was jointure or stay out indefinitely. There is reason for this. Nearly every big journal in that territory is republican in politics, chiefly, of course, because of the "pie" distributed by the federal government under the territorial rule; hence when Head Pie-Distributor Roosevelt pulls the string, all his puppets dance to his music. However, the semi-independent Albuquerque Chronicle, which has fought the "Santa Fe ring" for several years and which has been about the only city paper in New Mexico openly for jointure, has the right side of the counter now.—El Paso News.

A Positive Position.

Those opposed to joint statehood have repeatedly and positively asserted that those in favor of that kind of statehood are in a very small minority, while those in favor of joint statehood have just as repeatedly and just as positively asserted that those opposed are mighty small potatoes and few in a hill. Now, however, President Roosevelt has said in his message that he is in favor of joint statehood, Governor Hagerman had already made a similar declaration, and Delegate Andrews will at once introduce a joint statehood bill in congress. It is altogether possible, therefore, that the people of New Mexico and Arizona will soon have an opportunity to count noses on this important question, and we shall then know where the majority really lies.—Roswell Chief.

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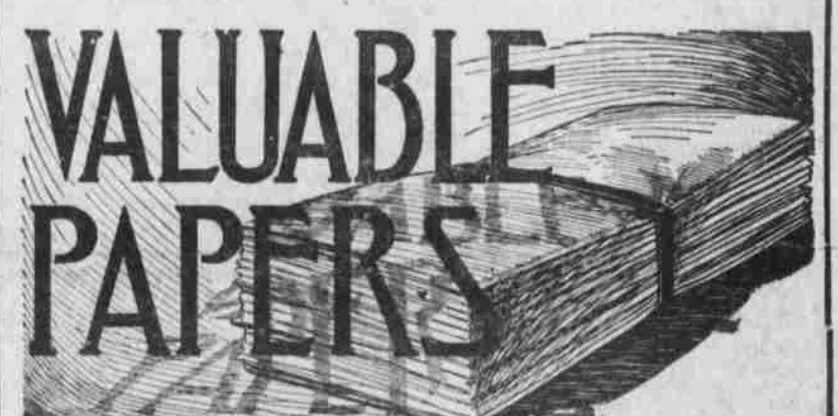
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